

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6 and 8-18 remain pending in the present application. Claims 5 and 7 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 18 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 14 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the Japanese patent. Claim 7 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 7 depended from Claim 5 which depended from Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 5 and 7 and Claims 5 and 7 have been cancelled. Thus, Applicants believe that Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 2-6, 14 and 18 which ultimately depend from Claim 1 are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 8-13 and 15-17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 8, 9, 11 and 13 were

amended to depend from Claim 1. Claim 10 depends from Claim 9. Claim 12 depends from Claim 11.

Claim 15 depended from Claim 1. Claim 15 has been amended to independent form to include the limitations of Claim 1 and is thus believed to be allowable.

Claim 16 depended from Claim 1. Claim 16 has been amended to independent form to include the limitations of Claim 1 and is thus believed to be allowable.

Claim 17 depends from Claim 16 and is thus also believed to be allowable.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 18 is objected to because of informalities. Claim 18 has been amended to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

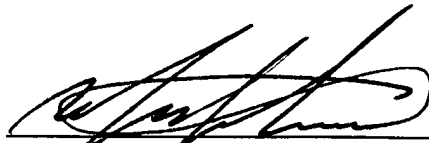
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



Michael J. Schmidt, 34,007

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MJS/pmg